

**Virginia Scenic River Advisory Board
American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar
Richmond, Virginia
April 23, 2010**

Virginia Scenic River Advisory Board Members Present

Richard G. Gibbons, Chair
Henry R. Broaddus
Robert G. Harrison
Ralph L. Moore
Mary Lily Nuckolls
Porchet L. Taylor, Jr.
Christy Williams

Russell W. Baxter, Acting Director
Ruth T. Dickerson
Patricia A. Jackson, Vice Chair
Edward A. Mullen
Ellen Shepard
K. Wayne Walton

Virginia Scenic River Advisory Board Members Not Present

Amanda T. Macaulay

Cardell C. Patillo, Sr.

DCR Staff

Lynn Crump
David C. Dowling
Rick Hill

John R. Davy
Michael R. Fletcher
Danette Poole

Others Present

Call to Order

Chairman Gibbons called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Gibbons said that the Board and subcommittee had been actively planning for the 40th Anniversary Celebration.

Mr. Gibbons said that he and Ms. Crump met with a landowner on the Appomattox River who had concerns about the designation of the Appomattox River as a State Scenic River. Four out of the five jurisdictions have signed on, however, Chesterfield has not. Approval from Chesterfield will be pursued over the next three to nine months.

Mr. Baxter said that the bill that Delegate Ingram introduced for the designation was carried over to the next session and was still technically active.

Mr. Gibbons said that two certificates of appreciation had been prepared for Ralph Hambrick and for Dennis Liberson. He said that with the concurrence of the Board, these would be transmitted accordingly.

Mr. Gibbons said that John Davy would be retiring from the agency after 38 years of service to the state. He said that Mr. Davy had been one of the benchmark people to insure the success of the Scenic Rivers program. He thanked Mr. Davy for his contribution.

MOTION: Mr. Baxter moved that the Board commend Mr. Davy for his service to the Commonwealth and to the Scenic Rivers program.

SECOND: Mr. Moore

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Gibbons – John Davy will be retiring from the agency after 38 years. John has been on of the benchmark people to insure that our scenic rivers program though work of staff and evaluations has been as successful as it has. Appreciate all the work that john has done.

Approval of Minutes from January 6, 2010

MOTION: Mr. Moore moved that the minutes from the January 6, 2010 meeting of the Virginia Scenic River Advisory Board be approved as submitted by staff.

SECOND: Mr. Mullen

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Director's Report

Mr. Baxter gave the Director's report.

Mr. Baxter thanked members for participating in the morning event. He thanked in particular Ms. Jackson, Mr. Mullen and Ms. Shepard for their planning and coordination of the event.

Mr. Baxter thanked DCR Staff members Lynn Crump and Kim Hodge for their coordination of the event.

REVISED: 5/11/2010

Mr. Baxter said that at this time, the Governor had not named a Director for the Agency and that he remained the Acting Director. He noted that the remaining Natural Resources Agency Director's had all been named.

Mr. Baxter said that much was going on within the agency. He said that one of the major initiatives will be the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. He said this was a major undertaking that directs the Commonwealth to work to remove the Chesapeake Bay and rivers from the list of impaired waters. He said that DCR would be a major player in that effort.

Mr. Baxter said that agency directors and the Secretary of Natural Resources would be meeting toward the end of the month to discuss pollution load allocations. The preliminary plan is due to the EPA in the summer with the expected approval of the TMDL by the end of the year.

Mr. Baxter said that DCR had also been working on the development of new Stormwater Regulations for the Commonwealth. He said that it had been a long and controversial process. The challenge had been to come up with an acceptable solution. He said that the General Assembly had passed legislation to delay the implementation of the new Stormwater Regulations until after the completion of the Bay TMDL.

Mr. Baxter said that the Stormwater Regulations do not apply just to the Bay watershed. He said there would be important implications for water quality and water quantity issues throughout the Commonwealth.

Ms. Shepard noted that the TMDL process would take some time and expressed a concern for the delay in the Stormwater Regulations.

Mr. Baxter said that the TMDL is in a court order consent decree and that it must be completed by May 2011. That requires the Commonwealth to have the approved plan to EPA by December 2010. He said that it was a multi-year process for implementation.

40th Anniversary Celebration

Mr. Gibbons commended Ms. Jackson for her leadership of the 40th Anniversary Subcommittee. He asked Ms. Jackson to give a report.

Ms. Jackson thanked the Board for the opportunity to coordinate the 40th Anniversary Celebration. She said it was very much a Board effort with great support from the staff. She said that there were many people to thank.

Ms. Jackson said that appreciation should be expressed to Dominion for hosting the luncheon. She said that the American Civil War Center could not have been nicer in hosting the event and their support for the function.

Ms. Jackson thanked Esther Zabronsky for coordinating the Scenic River display that was in the General Assembly building and is now available to travel around the state. There is also a display in the courthouse in Loudoun County. There will be a celebration and reading of the resolution in Loudoun County on Monday, May 3.

There are 24 river pictures in the exhibit. Four new ones will be added. Ms. Jackson noted that members had a copy of the primary tabletop exhibit in their packets. A copy of this is available from DCR.

Ms. Jackson also expressed appreciation to Ralph White from Richmond City Parks and Watkins Nursery for providing the tree for planting.

Ms. Jackson expressed appreciation for Governor McDonnell attending the event. She also expressed appreciation to Leighton Powell of Scenic Virginia for dedicating their photo contest to Scenic Rivers.

Ms. Crump noted that a list of events associated with the 40th Anniversary was provided in member packets. That list is available from DCR.

Recent River Designations

Ms. Crump presented an update regarding four recent river designations. She said that the studies had been done from 2009 through March 2010.

The largest designation was the Blackwater with 56 miles of designation. The first evaluation was done in March 2007, with the finalization almost a year later. Five different sections were studied on different days.

Ten miles of the Hughes River have been designated. This was initiated by Rappahannock County. Culpeper County agreed, but Madison has yet to file a letter of support from their Board of Supervisors. This river is on the East face of Old Rag Mountain.

The Jordan River is a small river in the Piedmont. Seven miles were designated.

Nine miles of the Russell Fork River in Dickenson County were designated.

Ms. Jackson said that Mr. Walton did a fabulous job of trying to get the Appomattox River approved. She said that Chesterfield County came very close to approving.

Chronological History of the Program

Ms. Crump said that staff was beginning to collect history of the Scenic River Committees. This is an ongoing archival project. DCR has three histories as of this date. She said that staff would keep the Board informed regarding the progress.

Update on Scenic River Study Status

Ms. Crump gave the update on scenic river study status.

The field work has been done for the Hazel River. She said the hope was to study the Nottoway River in the spring.

Ms. Crump said that there had also been discussions concerning the Mattoponi, the Tighe and other rivers.

Ms. Crump said that she would be meeting with the steering committee concerning the Appomattox River.

Mr. Baxter said to clarify the issue for Chesterfield County, that DCR had submitted request for clarification to the Attorney General. He said that the intent was to make it clear that there is no regulatory authority associated with a designation.

Distribution of New Brochures

Ms. Crump said that she had hoped that the updated version of the brochure would be ready for distribution. She said instead that she would forward them to the Board members when they were available. She noted that the new printing does not specify segment numbers and mileage. This will extend the shelf life of the brochure. A new section for minimum criteria for the studies is also included.

Health Waters Program

Mr. Baxter introduced Rick Hill for a presentation concerning the Healthy Waters Program. He said that this program dealt with protecting waters before they become impaired.

Mr. Hill gave an overview of the Healthy Waters Program. He distributed a brochure outlining the program. A copy of that brochure is available from DCR.

The Healthy Waters Program was launched in Virginia in 2009 after several years of development. Healthy Waters is a multi-organizational effort developed and managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Center for Environmental Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University in coordination with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

Mr. Taylor asked Mr. Hill if, when making a presentation, he informed the audience of related programs like Scenic Rivers or other programs.

Mr. Hill said that would be included, but the program had not yet been rolled out. He said this presentation was the beginning. He said that this would be mailed out in a large

mailing in the next month. There will be briefings and trainings for Soil and Water Conservation Districts over the summer.

Ms. Jackson said that the message to the Board was that it was great to pull together so many different studies. She said that the Board and others could take this information and look at the rivers that have the greatest potential as healthy rivers to see how those could be prioritized.

Scenic Virginia

Leighton Powell of Scenic Virginia addressed the board. Recognizing the hour, she said that she would love to come back to a future meeting and do a full presentation regarding Scenic Virginia. She said that Scenic Virginia is the only non-profit conservation organization solely dedicated to preservation by beauty.

Ms. Powell said that she was a big fan of scenic rivers. She said that the Scenic River photo contest would appear in the Richmond Times Dispatch on Saturdays. For 2010, in recognition of the 40th Anniversary of the Virginia Scenic Rivers program the rivers and waterways category would be devoted exclusively to Scenic Rivers.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

New Business

Ms. Nuckolls said that the National Committed for the New River would be canoeing the entire Virginia segment of the river in July and August. They are going to begin in Independence in Grayson County. She said that an event would be hosted at the Nuckolls' home on the river. She invited Board members and others to attend the event.

Ms. Nuckolls said the group was joining with the New River Land Trust located in Blacksburg. She noted that the New is currently not a Virginia Scenic River. She said that she would like to propose that the Board ask for a study to include the New River as a Virginia Scenic River.

Chairman Gibbons said that he would accept that as a motion.

MOTION: Ms. Nuckolls moved that the Virginia Scenic River Advisory Board request that DCR study the New River for possible designation as a Virginia Scenic River.

SECOND: Ms. Jackson

DISCUSSION: None

REVISED: 5/11/2010

VOTE: Motion carried with Mr. Baxter abstaining

Ms. Crump noted that members were provided with a Virginia Trail Networking brochure in their packet. She noted that this information had been presented at the last meeting. Additional copies of the brochure are available from DCR.

Mr. Gibbons thanked members and staff for their attendance and for the organization and effort put forth for the 40th Anniversary celebration.

There was no further business and Mr. Gibbons declared the meeting adjourned.

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Richard G. Gibbons
Chairman

David A. Johnson
Director